

**Pearson Edexcel**  
International Advanced Level

# English Language

International Advanced Subsidiary

**Unit 1: Language: Context and Identity**

Monday 23 May 2016 – Morning

**Source Booklet**

Paper Reference

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## Text A

**Text A is an edited transcript of a speech delivered by Angelina Jolie to the United Nations (UN) Security Council in New York on April 24, 2015. Jolie is Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.**

Mr President, Foreign Ministers, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: it is an honor to brief the Council.

Since the Syria conflict began in 2011, I have made eleven visits to Syrian refugees in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Malta. I wish that some of the Syrians I have met could be here today.

I think of the mother I met recently in a camp in Iraq. She could tell you what it is like to try to live after your young daughter was ripped from your family by armed men, and taken as a sex slave.

I think of Hala, one of six orphaned children living in a tent in Lebanon. She could tell you what it is like to share the responsibility for feeding your family at the age of 11, because your mother died in an air strike and your father is missing.

I think of Dr Ayman, a doctor from Aleppo, who watched his wife and three-year-old daughter drown in the Mediterranean when a smugglers' boat collapsed packed with hundreds of people. He could tell you what it is like to try to keep your loved ones safe in a warzone, only to lose them in a desperate bid for safety after all other options have failed.

Any one of the Syrians I have met would speak more eloquently about the conflict than I ever could.

Nearly four million Syrian refugees are victims of a conflict they have no part in. Yet they are stigmatized, unwanted, and regarded as a burden. So I am here for them, because this is their United Nations.

Here, all countries and all people are equal – from the smallest and most broken member states to the free and powerful.

The purpose of the UN is to prevent and end conflict: to bring countries together, to find diplomatic solutions and to save lives. We are failing to do this in Syria.

Responsibility for the conflict lies with the warring parties inside Syria. But the crisis is made worse by division and indecision within the international community – preventing the Security Council from fulfilling its responsibilities.

In 2011, the Syrian refugees I met were full of hope. They said "please, tell people what is happening to us", trusting that the truth alone would guarantee international action. When I returned, hope was turning into anger: the anger of the man who held his baby up to me, asking "is this a terrorist? Is my son a terrorist?"

On my last visit in February, anger had subsided into resignation, misery and the bitter question "why are we, the Syrian people, not worth saving?"

To be a Syrian caught up in this conflict is to be cut off from every law and principle designed to protect innocent life. International humanitarian law prohibits torture, starvation, the targeting of schools and hospitals – but these crimes are happening every day in Syria.

The Security Council has powers to address these threats to international peace and security – but those powers lie unused.

The UN has adopted the Responsibility to Protect concept, saying that when a State cannot protect its people the international community will not stand by – but we are standing by, in Syria. The problem is not lack of information – we know in excruciating detail what is happening in Yarmouk, in Aleppo and in Homs. The problem is lack of political will...

So on behalf of Syrian refugees, I make these pleas to the international community:

The first is an appeal for unity.

It is time for the Security Council to work as one to end the conflict, and reach a settlement that also brings justice and accountability for the Syrian people... In the last few months we have seen intensive diplomacy at work elsewhere in the region: so now let us see what is possible for the people of Syria. And while these debates are important, I also urge the Security Council to visit Syrian refugees, to see first hand their suffering and the impact it is having on the region. Those refugees cannot come to this Council, so please, will you go to them?

Second, I echo what has been said about supporting Syria's neighbors, who are making an extraordinary contribution. It is sickening to see thousands of refugees drowning on the doorstep of the world's wealthiest continent. No one risks the lives of their children in this way except out of utter desperation. If we cannot end the conflict, we have an inescapable moral duty to help refugees and provide legal avenues to safety.

And if I may make a wider, final point to conclude my remarks.

The crisis in Syria illustrates that our inability to find diplomatic solutions causes mass displacement, and traps millions of people in exile, statelessness, and displacement...

Our times will be defined not by the crises themselves, but by the way we pull together as an international community to address them.

Thank you.

## Text B

**Text B is the personal account of Miriam Bah on Australia's ABC News website. She left Liberia in West Africa in 1996 to seek refuge in Sierra Leone (also in West Africa). Less than a year later civil war forced her from Sierra Leone. She arrived in Australia in 2005 and now works with African women refugees in Australia.**

I was born in Liberia, where there was a civil war in 1995. It was horrible. We had curfews in place. People were hiding all the time – everyone was hiding – because they were raping women, there were murders. And you'd think, my next door neighbour just got killed, who's next? That question is always on your mind: who's next?

We left in 1996 and went to Sierra Leone. I think it was three days we were on the ship. It was a horrible experience – it was raining, we all thought we were going to sink. And then we went to the refugee camp.

But in Sierra Leone there was a civil war within a year. So I experienced it twice. From Sierra Leone in 2005 I came to Australia on a refugee visa.

I felt really relieved. It was peaceful and safe. Here I can live happily without the worry that maybe we going to get burned in our house. I came by myself; I left my parents back home. They came over three months later. To come over here alone was a really huge challenge for me – I had never heard about Australia before, I didn't know what was going to happen to me and I was worried about the people back home. Being separated from my family was so hard.

When I first came, I experienced racism on public transport a lot. But I didn't want to carry another burden with me, so I try to ignore it. Sometimes when you don't understand another person's culture, you tend to be afraid of them a little bit. But once you get to know them you go, 'okay, I can talk to them, they are okay'.

I'm married now and I have two children and I am in school at university. I also volunteer in the community. I am CEO of a women's group called MAWA – the Migrant African Women's Association. I actually formed that organization, I think because I understood the challenges women face when they arrive – with the language, the culture etc. It basically empowers women to be productive and happy in the community. I am really, really proud of that.

I miss my country because I came here and left everything behind. I still remember the war, thinking about how my mother was going to be, if people would survive, how life would have been if I was still there. I think about it all the time. But I am so grateful to be here.

## Glossary

CEO – Chief Executive Officer

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Sources taken/adapted from:

<http://www.unhcr.org/553a459d6.html>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-06-22/refugee-week-profiles/4036618>

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